Weather

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR ALL INTERESTED IN METEOROLOGY

Vol. 27

1972

Published by the

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Cromwell House, High Street, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 1DP

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY MARTIN CADBURY PRINTING GROUP
CHELTENHAM AND LONDON

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Weather Log

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
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JANUARY 1972

CHANGEABLE; VERY COLD LAST FEW DAYS

With an anticyclone over Scandinavia, winds were easterly over the British Isles for the first two days then light and variable as a weak depression became slow-moving near south-eastern areas. There were outbreaks of light rain and drizzle, mostly in the south and east. From 6th to 16th a series of intense depressions in mid-Atlantic, and a persistent anticyclone over western Russia, maintained mild southerly winds with fronts and minor disturbances moving northwards over the British Isles. After a mostly dry day on the 6th, with persistent fog in parts of the South-East and the Midlands, rain spread east on the 7th preceded by sleet and snow in many central and eastern districts. Heavy rain followed on some days but the 12th was more showery. Temperatures reached 13°C at Chivenor (Devon) on the 10th and 11th. Cold south-easterly winds spread to the east on the 17th and 18th bringing light sleet and snow, but in the Highlands of Scotland some roads became blocked.

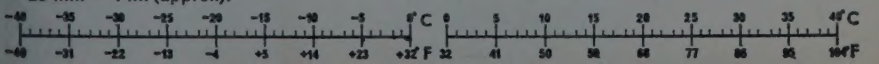
An occluding system swept eastwards on the 19th with widespread rain and gales. At Great Langdale in Westmorland 1·91 in. fell during the 24 hours up to 9 a m on the 19th. For the next seven days the Azores anticyclone was near its normal position and depressions moved north-eastwards near Iceland. In the westerly winds, wintry showers fell in the west and north on the 20th and 21st, followed by widespread rain and drizzle on the 22nd. Over the next two days rain spread east with a cold front, followed by wintry showers, some heavy, and with local thunder. On the 25th more rain spread eastwards, but it was sunny in the east – Folkestone and Hastings, in Kent, both had 8 hrs sunshine.

Between the 26th and 28th there was a rapid change of type. A wave depression on a trailing cold front deepened as it moved east becoming slow-moving over the southern North Sea before moving southwards. During this period winds veered through north to east as the Azores anticyclone built north-eastwards, a large anticyclone became established over western Russia and a depression was centred over the western Mediterranean. Widespread rain on the 26th was followed by heavy wintry showers and some thunder, and gales in many areas with gusts to 75 kt at Snaefell (Isle of Man) and Whitby (Yorkshire). Rain and some sleet returned to the South-East next day, turning to snow on the 28th. Very cold easterly winds then spread to all areas. Weak disturbances moving west brought snow showers and longer periods of snow, and temperatures near or below freezing. On the morning of the 31st the temperature fell to −18°C at East Malling (Kent), and the maximum on that day did not exceed −6°C at Cromer (Norfolk) and Binbrook (Lincolnshire). By then the influence of a deep depression in the central Atlantic was restored as an occlusion moved slowly north-east, bringing snow to the south-west whilst showers persisted over Scotland.

Both mean temperatures and rainfall were near normal in most places, but it was mild and rather wet in eastern Scotland. Apart from western and some southern districts, sunshine totals were below normal.

	TEMPERATURE (°C)					SUNSHINE (hr)		RAINFALL		
	Mean Max.	Diff. from Av.	Mean Min.	Diff. from Av.	No. of Air Frosts	Month	Diff. from Av.	Month (mm)	Diff. from Av. (mm)*	Days of Thunder
1. PLYMOUTH	8·3	+0·1	4·0	−0·1	5	60	0	134	+24	1
2. KEW OBSV.	6·4	+0·1	3·0	+0·8	9	37	− 9	54	− 1	0
3. GORLESTON	5·5	−0·9	2·4	+0·3	5	34	−20	54	− 2	0
4. BIRMINGHAM	5·1	−0·2	2·0	+0·4	7	47	+ 4	110	+34	0
5. VALLEY	7·4	0·0	3·5	−0·2	6	60	+ 2	89	− 2	0
6. DURHAM	5·1	−0·5	1·2	+1·1	10	33	−19	116	+57	N/A
7. ESKDALEMUIR	4·0	+0·2	0·8	+1·7	10	31	−13	145	−47	1
8. ABBOTSINCH	6·1	+0·7	2·2	+1·4	8	30	− 5	91	−27	0
9. DYCE	5·2	+0·3	1·8	+2·0	9	35	−19	135	+55	0
10. STORNOWAY	6·7	+0·4	2·8	+0·4	7	36	+ 1	73	−33	2
11. ALDERGROVE	6·2	+0·2	2·3	+0·8	7	37	− 8	101	+ 5	0

*25 mm = 1 in. (approx).



DAILY WEATHER MAPS

12 GMT

1-29 JANUARY 1972

Dates are ringed at lower right-hand corner of each map

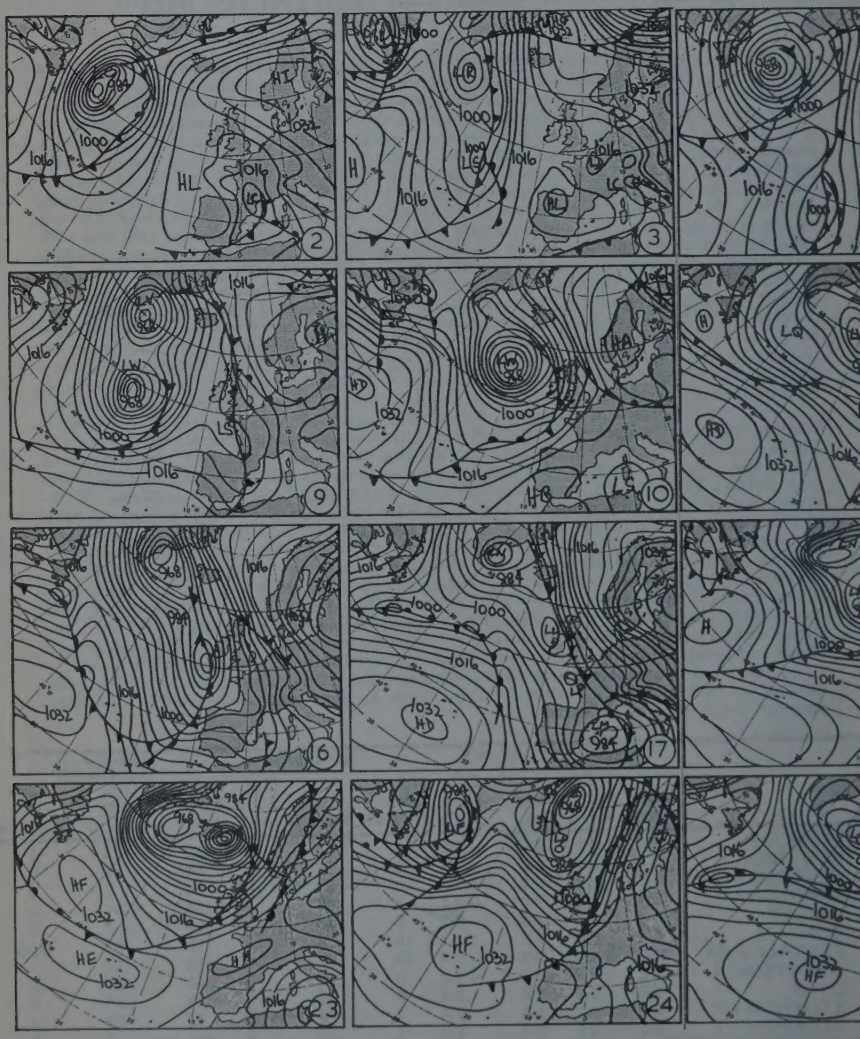
Key to CRAWLEY temp

Pressure levels in mb are column. Temperatures a

The depression of the de the letters:

a =
b =
c =
d =
e =

SUNDAY **MONDAY** **TUES**



(overleaf)
left hand
eg C.
licated by

C

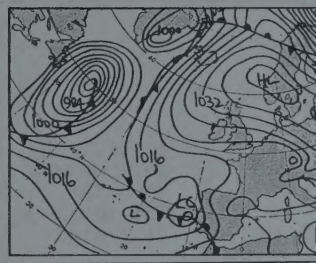
M.S.L. isobars are drawn at 4 mb intervals

Warm front

Cold front

Occlusion

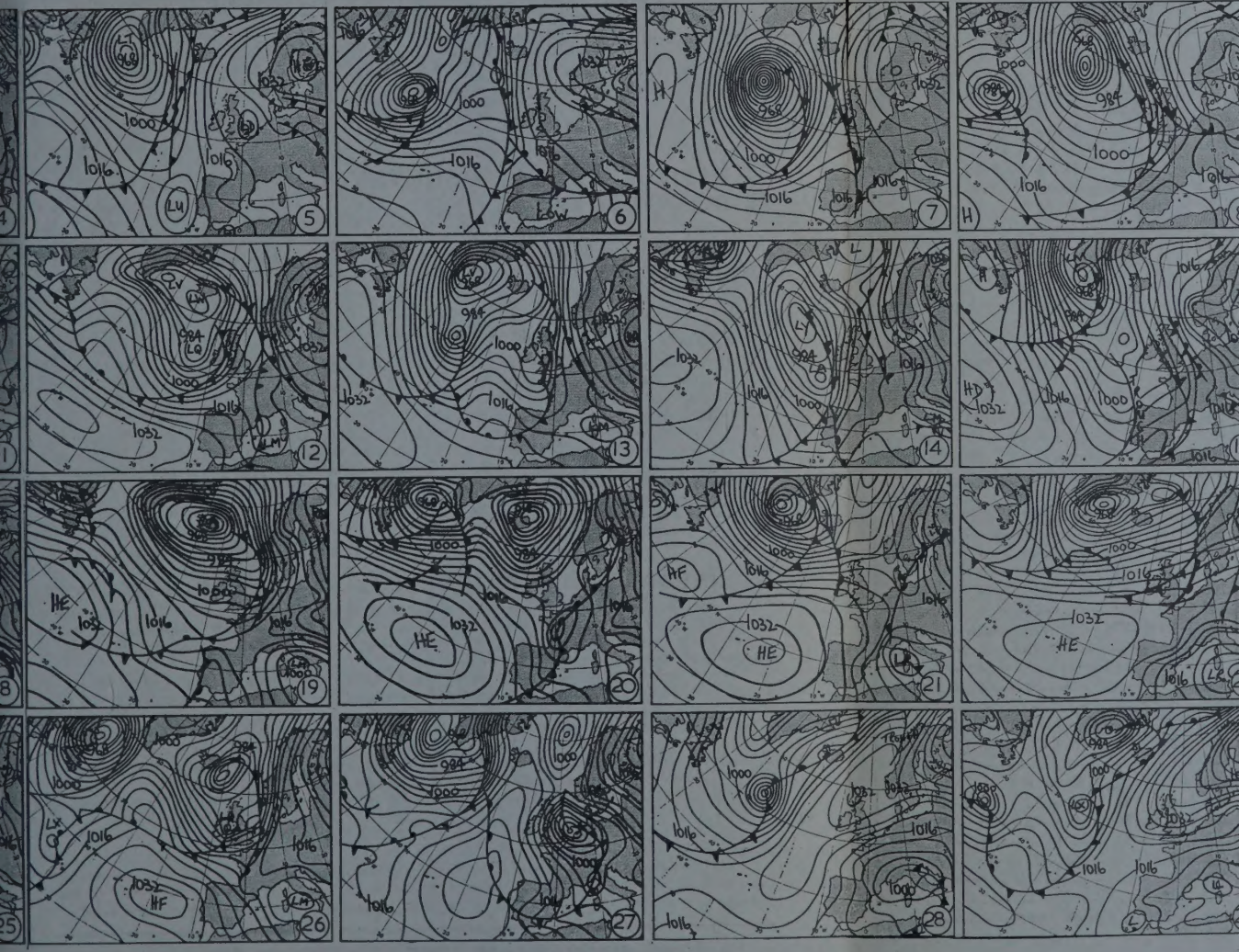
SATURDAY



WEDNESDAY

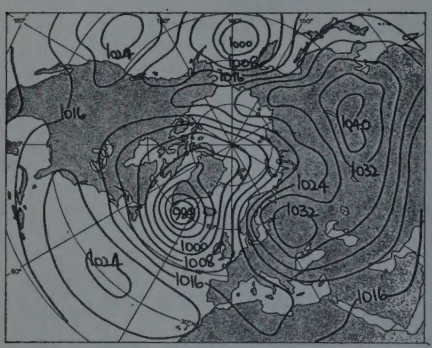
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

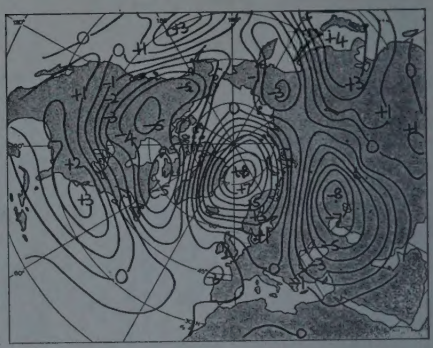


JANUARY 1972

MEAN PRESSURE AT SEA LEVEL (millibars)



TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES 1000-500 mb (deg C)



MONTHLY WEATHER SURVEY AND PROSPECTS FOR MARCH 1972

The following statement on weather prospects for February 1972 was issued by the British Meteorological Office on 1 March 1972.

GENERAL SURVEY AND INFERENCE

Mean surface pressure for February was above normal over eastern Europe but below normal from the Bay of Biscay to Greenland and thence to Novaya Zemblya. Mean temperatures were above normal from the central Mediterranean to Spitzbergen but below normal over Canada and most of Russia in Asia.

The main vortex in the mid-tropospheric flow was centred over north-west Greenland: at 50°N there was a trough at about 65°W. Another weak trough over the Bay of Biscay and a ridge about 30°E. A very strong circulation continued in the lower stratosphere but it remained largely unaffected by several major warmings in the upper stratosphere.

The broadscale circulation for February 1972 was similar to that at about the same time of year in 1884, 1922, 1961 and 1967.

WEATHER PROSPECTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR MARCH 1972

For about the first week unsettled weather is expected with rain at times, especially in western districts, but temperatures are likely to be mostly above average. Some dry anticyclonic weather is expected later especially in south-eastern districts but more probably in the second half of the month.

Nevertheless, over the month as a whole southerly or westerly types are likely to occur more frequently than usual so that frost and snow are expected to be less frequent than usual.

Mean temperatures for the month are expected to be above average in all districts and much above average in East Anglia, central southern and south-east England. Total rainfall will probably range below average in East Anglia to above average in Northern Ireland, western Scotland, north-west England and north Wales. Over the month as a whole hours of bright sunshine are likely to be above average in most eastern districts.

Note:

The statement on the prospects of weather for the next 30 days is regarded as a reasonable inference in the light of present knowledge. However the reliance which can be placed on the forecast is considerably less than that appropriate to forecasts for periods of one or two days.

The information presented in this log is extracted (with kind permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office) from official weather bulletins including: The Daily Weather Report of the British Meteorological Office, The Daily Aerological Record and the Meteorological Office Monthly Weather Survey and Prospects. These publications can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Meteorological Office, Bracknell, Berks.